

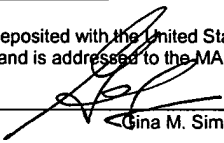
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By:  Gina M. Simon



PATENT APPLICATION
Customer Number: 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 04853.0072-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Norimasa OKUDA et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/870,483) Group Art Unit: 1625
)
Filed: June 1, 2001) Examiner: Taylor V. OH
)
Title: A METHOD FOR PRODUCING)
ALPHA-HYDROXYCARBOXYLIC)
ACID)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

Applicants file herewith a Request for Continued Examination in response to the Final Action mailed November 14, 2003. Applicants respectfully request the Office withdraw the finality of the Office Action and to enter this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

Applicants now respond to the Final Office Action dated November 14, 2003.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

AMENDMENTS begin on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on page 6 of this paper.

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